

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to specify the subject matter of Claims 8 and 9, now canceled. Newly-added Claim 21 is supported by original Claim 4 and the specification. No new matter is believed to have been added to the present application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-21 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Sanders for indicating that Claims 9-16 are allowable. See page 8 of the Office Action. In the amendment submitted above, the subject matter of Claims 8 and 9 has been added to Claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is believed to be moot.

The rejections of the claims for obviousness-type double patenting over the claims of U.S. patent application serial No. 10/525,529 (the '529 application) and U.S. patent 7,250,458 are respectfully traversed. The rejections are based on the assumption that mineral oils are esters. However, as evidenced by the article submitted herewith, mineral oil is composed of alkanes and cyclic parafins. Accordingly, mineral oils are not esters. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to address the issues identified in the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/526,435
Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2008

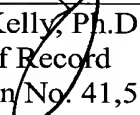
Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mineral oil

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Mineral oil or **liquid petrolatum** is a by-product in the distillation of petroleum to produce gasoline. It is a transparent, colorless oil composed mainly of alkanes (typically 15 to 40 carbons)^[1] and cyclic paraffins, related to white petrolatum. Mineral oil is a substance of relatively low value, and it is produced in very large quantities. Mineral oil is available in light and heavy grades, and can often be found in drug stores.

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Applications of Mineral Oil

Because of its low price and ubiquitous supply, mineral oil has been pressed into service in a wide variety of capacities. Most of these exploit its properties as a low-toxicity, non-reactive general purpose lubricant.

Medicine

Mineral oil is sometimes taken orally as a laxative. It lubricates feces and intestinal mucous membranes, and limits the amount of water removed from feces. Typically, mineral oil is effective within as little as six hours. While it has been reported that mineral oil may be absorbed when emulsified, most information shows that it passes harmlessly through the gastrointestinal system.

*If used at all, mineral oil should never be given internally to young children, pets, or anyone with a cough, hiatus hernia, or nocturnal reflux, and should be swallowed with care. Due to its low density, it is easily aspirated into the lungs, where it **cannot be removed by the body** and can cause serious complications such as lipoid pneumonia.^[2] While popular as a folk remedy, there are many safer alternatives available. In children, if aspirated, the oil can work to prevent normal breathing, resulting in death of brain cells and **permanent** paralysis and/or retardation.*

Mineral oil with added fragrance is marketed as **baby oil** in the US, UK and Canada. While baby oil is primarily marketed as a generic skin ointment, other applications exist in common use. Mineral or baby oil is often used in small quantities (2–3 drops daily) to clean ears. Over a couple of weeks, the mineral oil softens dried or hardened earwax so that a gentle flush of water can remove it. In the case of a damaged or perforated eardrum, however, mineral oil should not be used, as oil in the middle ear can lead to ear infections. It is also a recommended way of removing an insect from the ear of a human. A few drops drowns the bug, which can then be easily removed.

Mineral oil is used as suspending and lavigating agent in sulphur-based ointments.

Veterinary Medicine

Certain mineral oils are used in livestock vaccines, as an adjuvant to stimulate a cell-mediated immune response to the vaccinating agent. In the poultry industry, plain mineral oil can also be swabbed onto the feet of chickens infected with scaly mites on the shank, toes, and webs. Mineral oil suffocates these tiny parasites.

Cosmetics

Mineral oil is a commonly-found ingredient in baby lotions, cold creams, ointments and low-grade cosmetics as an alternative to more expensive oils. It can be used on eyelashes to prevent brittleness and/or breaking and, in cold cream, is also used to remove creme makeup and temporary tattoos.